Hardships of small scale industries

1085. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the various hardships being faced by the Small Scale Industrial Sector;

(b) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard;

(c) what is the status of proposed Small Enterprises Development Bill, 2003; and

(d) whether Government would give an assurance that necessary steps would be taken urgently, including the tabling of the Small Enterprises Development Bill, 2003 without delay in order to addres the hardships faced by the small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of the Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector and have been taking effective steps to promote and develop the SSI Sector as is evident by various measures announced from time to time. The Government announced a Comprehensive Policy Package in August, 2000, to strengthen the small scale industries sector and enhance its domestic and global competitiveness which provides for *inter-alia*, easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, marketing support, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure. In addition, Government and the Reserve Bank of India have also announced various other measures/incentives including instructions to banks to provide credit to SSIs at interest within a band of 2% plus minus their Prime Lending Rate (PLR), introduction of Laghu Udyami Card Scheme, selective enhancement of investment limits etc. to enable SSIs to compete successfully.

(c) and (d) Government have already taken initiatives, including formulating a draft legislation *viz* "Small Enterprises Development Bill" to address the concerns of the small scale sector. The process of inter-ministerial consultations on the draft legislation has since been initiated.